Pilferage of coal in MCL

1087. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidents of pilferage of coal in some coal mines under Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL);

(b) if so, the details of the coal mines and pit heads in Orissa where such incidents are one the increase; and

(c) the steps taken to stop the pilferage of coal in MCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of incidents of coal thefts in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), area-wise, for the last three years is given below along with the quantity of coal (in tonne) involved in such incidents:—

Area	No. of Incidents			Quantity Involved (In tonne)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Jagannath	29	25	34	61.5	51	56.5
IB Valley	1	2	13	12	48	165
Lakhanpur	Nil	1	5	Nil	10	76
Orient	1	3	2	12.5	13	23
Talcher	1	Nil	Nil	10	Nil	Nil
Lingraj	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	10	Nil
Basundhara	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	12	Nil
Total	32	33	54	96	144	321

(c) Following steps are being taken to stop the pilferage of coal in MCL:—

(i) The concerned authorities of Government of Orissa had been

requested by MCL to close down all licensed coal depots (Licenses issued by the State Government authorities) near mines/pit heads. The existence of such coal depots near mines/pit heads is the main cause of pilferage of coal. No license is now being issued to coal depots within a radius of 45 kilometers of the coal mines.

(ii) Coordination is being done by MCL with the civil authorities including police. A strategy is being formulated to prevent theft/ pilferage of coal. Extensive mobile patrolling by the security personnel of MCL as well as by the police is being carried out regularly.

Fire accident in Moira Colliery of ECL

1088. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item regarding Fire accident in Moira Colliery, under ECL, West Bengal appearing in 'Ganashakti' dated the 12th July, 2000;

(b) If so, the action taken by Government to restore the situation; and

(c) the expected loss due to that accident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fire area has been sealed off on 17.7.2000 and production has been restored from 18.7.2000.

(c) Expected loss due to the accident is Rs. 32.50 lakhs.

Coal Production Capacity of Mines

1089. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the coal production capacity of various coal mines and the actual production therein during the last three years; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to increase existing production of coal in the country?